**DRIVEN TO PRAYER
*When I Have Nowhere Else To Go***

“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me seemed insufficient for the day.” - Abraham Lincoln

I can’t imagine the burden Mr. Lincoln shouldered during the horrendous and bloody Civil War. Daily dispatches to the Oval Office brought him casualty reports that by war’s end had reached 620,000 dead. That is as many casualties as in all other American wars combined! Widows, orphans and childless parents numbered into the tens of thousands. Mr. Lincoln had to bear this burden as President. Knowing this statistic you may now better understand the quote above.

While I am not a war-time president with the burden of death’s news invading my life each day, I am a husband, a father, a gospel preacher, a shepherd of a flock, a brother in Christ who loves each of you, and an evangelist who sees the dead and the dying through the lens of eternity. Sometimes it just becomes more than I can bear. Which, as Lincoln observed, drives me to my knees, having nowhere else to go.

From childhood I have loved to sing the hymn Where Could I Go But To The Lord.

Living below, in this old [sinful](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sinful) world, Hardly a [comfort](https://www.definitions.net/definition/comfort) can afford

Striving alone, to face temptation's sword, Where [could](https://www.definitions.net/definition/could) I go but to the Lord?

Neighbors are kind, I love them everyone, We get [along](https://www.definitions.net/definition/along) in [sweet](https://www.definitions.net/definition/sweet) accord

But when my soul, [needs](https://www.definitions.net/definition/needs) manna from above, Where [could](https://www.definitions.net/definition/could) I go but to the Lord?

Life here is grand, with [friends](https://www.definitions.net/definition/friends) I love so dear, Comfort I get from God's own word

Yet when I face this [chilling](https://www.definitions.net/definition/chilling) hand of death, Where [could](https://www.definitions.net/definition/could) I go but to the Lord?

CHORUS:
Where [could](https://www.definitions.net/definition/could) I go, oh [where](https://www.definitions.net/definition/where) could I go? Seeking a [refuge](https://www.definitions.net/definition/refuge) for my soul

Needing a friend, to help me in the end, Where [could](https://www.definitions.net/definition/could) I go, but to the Lord?

While the first line – “hardly a comfort can afford” – is sung in silence due to the fact I live in modern America with great comfort, the rest of the hymn is meaningful to all of us who “*have been driven many times to our knees*.” Living below in this old sinful world, as did the apostle Paul, I have grown more and more to appreciate his incredible prayer life. Just as the disciples came to Jesus, after watching Him for three years go off into the mountains, the desert, and the closet to pray, asked, “*Lord, teach us to pray*” (Lk. 11:1), so I have found myself in my golden years asking, “Paul, teach me to pray.” I have enrolled in Paul’s School of Prayer. I’m only now in his Prayer 101 class but let me tell you what I’ve learned thus far.

The first class opened with these verses to memorize. Would you care to join me?

*“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation,* ***continuing steadfastly*** *in prayer.”* (Rom. 12:10-12)

“I ***always*** thank God for you because of His grace given to you in Christ Jesus.” (I Cor. 1:4)

“*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,* ***do not cease*** *to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers*.” (Eph. 1:15)

*“I thank my God upon* ***every remembrance*** *of you,* ***always*** *in* ***every*** *prayer of mine making request for you all with joy.*” (Phil. 1:3-4)

“*Do not be anxious about anything, but in* ***everything*** *by prayer and intercession, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God*.” (Phil. 4:6)

“*We* ***always*** *thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints*.” (Col. 1:3)

“***Continue earnestly*** *in prayer, being* ***vigilant*** *in it with thanksgiving*.” (Col. 4:2)

“*We give thanks to God* ***always*** *for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering* ***without ceasing*** *your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (I Thess. 1:2)

“*For this reason we also thank God* ***without ceasing****, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it …”* (I Thess. 2:13)

“***night and day*** *praying* ***exceedingly*** *that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith*” (1 Thess 3:10)

“*Therefore we also pray* ***always*** *for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling.”* (2 Thess. 1:11)

“*I thank my God, making mention of you* ***always*** *in my prayer*…” (Philemon 4)

“*I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as* ***without ceasing*** *I remember you in my prayers* ***night and day****.”* (2 Tim 1:3)

Okay, I’ll stop. Impressed? Envious? Following Paul into his “closet” of prayer can be a very tiring, sleepless experience. When Paul told someone, “I’m praying for you,” as we so often do (many times to our shame due to failure to follow through), it becomes obvious that he meant every word. Paul’s great success as an evangelist in turning the world upside for Christ can be directly linked to his private prayer life. With Paul, prayer wasn’t the least he could do for others, it was the MOST he could do. So, he prayed, and prayed, and prayed, and prayed. Always. Without ceasing. Night and day. Continuously. Fervently.

Our 16th President, who’s only four years in office were during the bloodiest war in our nation’s infancy, found his only solace on his knees before God’s throne. Our 14th Apostle, who’s 30 years in ministry were during the bloody days of martyrdom in the church’s infancy, found his “peace that surpasses understanding” on his knees before the throne of grace.

“*For this reason* ***I bow my knees*** *before the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ*…” (Eph. 3:14)

When you have nowhere else to go, where are you driven to? – Rick